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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/085,388	02/28/2002	Kevin J. Kayser	GTI-1453	6640
7590	05/04/2004		EXAMINER	
Mark E. Fejer Gas Technology Institute 1700 South Mount Prospect Road Des Plaines, IL 60018			VOGEL, NANCY S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1636	

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	KAYSER ET AL.	
10/085,388		
Examiner Nancy T. Vogel	Art Unit 1636	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2004.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-3,5,10 and 11 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-3, 5, 10 and 11 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to applicant's amendment received 2/6/04. Receipt of an Oath or Declaration, and a CRF listing, on 2/6/04 and 2/12/04 respectively, is acknowledged.

Claims 1-3, 5, 10 and 11 are currently pending in the case.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-3, 5, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

This is a new rejection necessitated by the applicant's amendment to the claims filed 2/6/04.

The claims contain the new limitation of "inactivating or deleting a characteristic gene defining host growth rate". This subject matter was not described in the specification as originally filed. While page 14, lines 16-18 of the specification states that the strains containing vectors containing the mdh gene grow more rapidly than plasmid-free cells that lack a functional mdh gene, this does not constitute a description

of the broad method as currently claimed. There is no general disclosure in the specification of a method comprising the step of deleting or inactivating genes which affect growth rate.

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

This is a new rejection necessitated by the applicant's amendment to the claims filed 2/6/04.

The rejection is based on the Guidelines for the Examination of Patent Applications under the 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph "Written Description published in the Federal Register (Volume 66, Number 4, Pages 1099-1111). Claim 1 is drawn to a method for introducing and stabilizing heterologous genes in a thermophilic host, comprising inactivating or deleting a "characteristic gene defining host growth rate". Claims 3 and 5 are dependent on claim 1. Claim 10 recites a *Thermus* strain comprising an inactivated or deleted characteristic gene defining a strain growth rate. The specification has provided a description of the deletion the *mdh* gene, which affects *Thermus* growth rate (page 14). The claims are genus claims in terms of a method comprising inactivating or deleting any gene defining a host growth rate from the thermophilic host (claims 1, 3, 5), or utilizing a *Thermus* strain comprising an inactivated

or deleted characteristic gene defining a strain growth rate (claim 10). The disclosure is not deemed to be descriptive of the complete structure of a representative number of species encompassed by the claims as one of skill in the art cannot envision all the methods utilizing the encompassed genes based on the teachings of the specification. While the specification provides a single example of the malate dehydrogenase gene, there is no disclosure of the structure or nature of other genes which may "define host growth rate". Furthermore, there is no structure-function analysis of the disclosed mdh gene to provide guidance on the essential structure of genes involved in host growth rate in thermophilic hosts. Therefore, the specification does not described the claimed method in such full, clear, concise and exact terms so as to indicate that Applicant has possession of the method at the time of filing the present application. Thus, the written description requirement has not been satisfied.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Kayser et al. (J. Bacteriol., 183: (5) 1792-1795 (2001).

This rejection is maintained for the reasons made of record in the previous Office action, mailed 11/4/03.

Applicants have argued that since the reference was published less than one year before the filing date of the instant application, and since "all of the authors of the

Kayser et al. reference are named inventors on the subject application", the reference is Applicant's own work and cannot be cited in a rejection. However, the inventive entities of the reference and the instant application are not identical, and therefore the reference qualifies as prior art. The rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

No claims are allowed.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

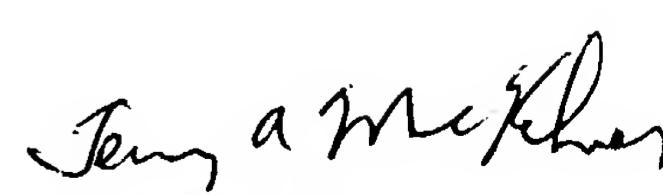
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nancy T. Vogel whose telephone number is (571) 272-0780. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 - 3:00, Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Irem Yucel, Ph.D. can be reached on (571) 272-0781. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

4/28/04



TERRY MCKELVEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER